

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-16: (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic method of treating human skin by delivering an estrogenic component to said skin, the method comprising applying to the skin a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein at least 3 of the groups R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein the precursors are derivatives of the estrogenic substances wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to enhance proliferation of fibroblasts and/or epidermal skin cells.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to improve skin thickness and/or skin elasticity.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to improve or prevent the condition of wrinkled, lined, dry, flaky, aged or photodamaged skin.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein the composition contains at least 10  $\mu\text{g/g}$  of the estrogenic component.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied to facial skin or skin of the neck.

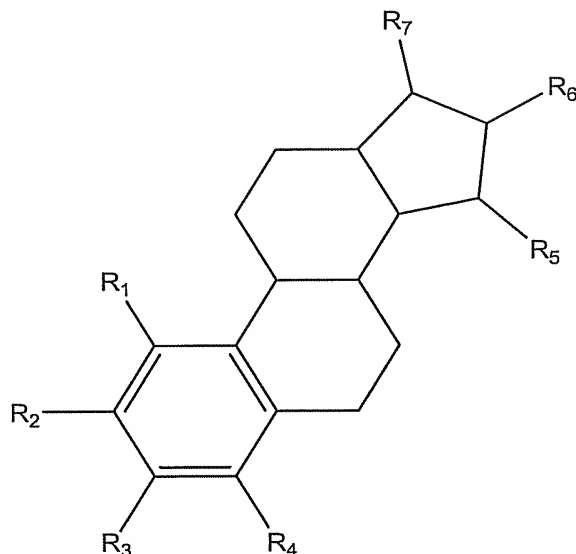
Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied at least once a day during a period of at least 3 days.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein virtually all of the composition that has been applied to the skin, is allowed to penetrate said skin.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of treating or preventing vaginal dryness, wherein the method comprises applying to the vaginal epithelium a composition according to ~~claim 31~~ containing:

(i) at least 5  $\mu\text{g/g}$  of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors; and

(ii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

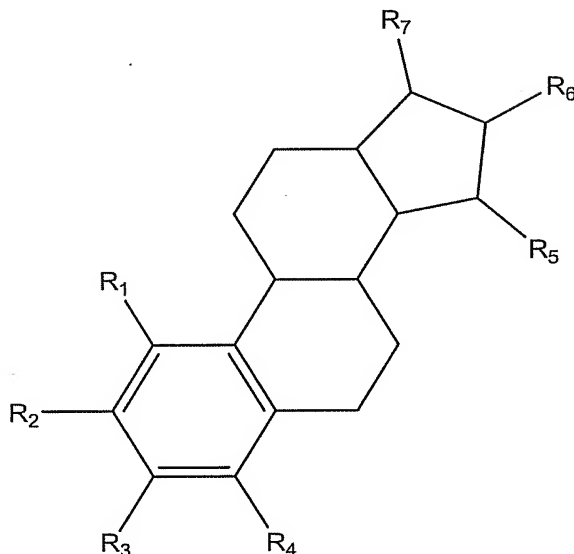
Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A method of promoting wound healing, wherein the method comprises applying to the wounded tissue or to tissue in the vicinity of the wound a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method of treating or preventing acne, wherein the method comprises applying to the skin that is affected by acne or that is at risk of being affected by acne a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A skin care composition for topical administration containing:

(i) at least 5  $\mu\text{g/g}$  of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula



in which formula R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors; and

(ii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The skin care composition according to claim 31, which composition is a lotion, salve or a cream.